

## Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SS-15

NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SY-05 SCCT-01

SCS-03 SCA-01 /056 W

----- 003948

O P 311410Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4835

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0366

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (SMITH, HUNTER)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMCITS: PROPOSED BURUNDI CONTACT

REF BUJUMBURA 365

1. ONE MAJOR POINT THAT EMERGED FROM MAY 31 MEETING WITH VAGNI (REFTEL) IS IMPORTANCE OF RUMONGE (OVERGROWN VILLAGE ABOUT MIDWAY DOWN LAKESHORE BETWEEN BUJUMBURA AND SOUTHERN BORDER) AS REFUGE AND CONTACT POINT FOR ZAIRIANS FROM CONTESTED AREA ON OTHER SIDE OF LAKE. VAGNI BELIEVES THAT ALERTING EUROPEAN PRIESTS IN RUMONGE COULD USEFULLY PARALLEL INFORMAL CONTACTS HE MAY BE MAKING BEGINNING JUNE 02 IN AREA SOUTH OF UVIRA (BUJUMBURA 365).

2. TO THAT END, VAGNI HAS DRAFTED LETTERS OF INTRODUCTION FOR STEINER FROM HIMSELF TO CATHOLIC FATHERS AT RUMONGE AND ALSO KIGWENA (VILLAGE TOWN ABOUT 25 KM SOUTH OF RUMONGE REPORTED TO BE LOCATION ALSO FREQUENTED BY THOSE IN TOUCH WITH DISSIDENT ZAIRE ELEMENTS). LETTER IDENTIFIES STEINER AS INTERMEDIARY  
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FOR PARENTS OF CAPTURED STUDENTS AND SOLICITS ANY POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE

OF MISSIONARIES IN FACILITATING POSSIBLE CONTACTS WITH CAPTORS.

3. TO PURSUE THIS POSSIBILITY, STEINER, MACFARLANE, AND EMBOFF PLAN JUNE 1 VISIT TO RUMONGE AND POSSIBLY FURTHER SOUTH TO KIGWENA IN ORDER TO SPEAK PERSONALLY TO MISSIONARIES. TACTIC WILL BE TO BRIEF THEM GENERALLY ON KIDNAP SITUATION, TO MAKE THEM AWARE OF THIS EMBASSY'S ACTIVITY IN CASE, AND TO SOLICIT THEIR HELP IN PASSING ALONG TO US RELIABLE INFORMATION AND EVEN RUMORS.

4. THESE MISSIONARIES WILL NOT RPT NOT BE ASKED TO TRY TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS OR TO TAKE ANY OTHER POSITIVE ACTION FOR PRESENT, PRESUMABLY THEY WILL INFORMALLY FLOAT WORD IN CERTAIN ZAIRIAN CIRCLES OF THEIR INTEREST IN RELEVANT INFORMATION, AND WILL THEN KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH ANY DATA RECEIVED.

5. AT AIRPORT CEREMONY TODAY, PRESIDENT MICOMBERO STARTED CONVERSATION WITH ME ABOUT STUDENTS. I GAVE HIM GENERAL RUNDOWN OF SITUATION, INCLUDING OUR HOPE THAT PRIESTS IN SOUTH KIVU MIGHT PROVE USEFUL CHANNEL FOR GETTING DIALOGUE STARTED WITH KIDNAPPERS. I STRESSED THAT WE WERE CONDITIONING ALL ACTIVITIES ON MOBUTU'S OKAY. HE AGAIN EXPRESSED SYMPATHY AND SAID BURUNDI WANTED TO BE HELPFUL. I THANKED HIM WARMLY AND PROMISED TO INFORM HIM OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS, IN VIEW OF THIS BACKGROUND, I THINK THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEM FROM GRB SIDE ABOUT TYPE OF CONTACT AND INFORMATION GATHERING EFFORT PLANNED IN RUMONGE AND KIGWENA.  
MARK

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## Message Attributes

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